

## West Linn City Council “Listening Tour” Aims to Gather Community Feedback in Advance of Council Goal Setting for 2012

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*Five Different Forums, Hosted by Each City Councilor, Will Focus on Future Needs of West Linn*

WEST LINN – The West Linn City Council is pleased to announce the dates of five community forums that comprise the “West Linn City Council Listening Tour.” The Listening Tour is designed to capture community feedback in advance of City Council goal setting for 2012. Each Listening Tour date will be hosted by a different member of the City Council, at convenient locations in West Linn:

- October 20 – Hosted by Mayor John Kovash, Willamette Primary School @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 25 – Hosted by Councilor Teri Cummings, West Linn High School @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 27 – Hosted by Councilor Mike Jones, Rosemont Ridge Middle School @ 6:30 p.m.
- November 1 – Hosted by Councilor Jody Carson, Cedaroak Primary School @ 6:30 p.m.
- November 9 – Hosted by Councilor Jenni Tan, West Linn Public Library @ 10:00 a.m.

“The Listening Tour is the City Council’s way of gathering community comments in advance of our goal setting in early 2012,” said City Councilor Mike Jones. Jones initially proposed the idea of broad-based community forums at which to gather feedback. “This approach gives the City Council the necessary information and perspective as we set goals for the future of our community,” said Jones.

The four main questions that will be posed at each Listening Tour date will include:

1. What do you like most about West Linn?
2. What are West Linn’s top concerns or problems?
3. What should the City Council be focused on in 2012?
4. How should the City work with the School District?

While a City Council member will host each meeting, their role will be minimal at each event to ensure that the community does the talking, and the Council does the listening. “This is an important component of the Listening Tour,” said City Council President Jody Carson. “We want feedback that is unfettered and honest, so each member of the Council will only attend one event, and will be listeners instead of speakers.”

In addition to the Listening Tour dates, the City Council will also accept comments via an online survey at <http://westlinnoregon.gov>. The survey will be available online from October 20, 2011 through November 10, 2011.

The same four areas of inquiry will be included in the online survey, and citizens who cannot attend the Listening Tour dates are encouraged to participate online.

In addition, the City Council decided to engage in a friendly competition to encourage outreach and enhance participation at their hosted Listening Tour dates. The Councilor who has the greatest attendance at their Listening Tour date will receive coveted “bragging rights” amongst their fellow councilors.

“We understand the importance of hearing from as many voices as possible during the Listening Tour,” said City Manager Chris Jordan. “Staff will be working to drum up widespread community support at each event so the City Council can get important feedback before goal setting next year,” said Jordan.

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